

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 13, 14 and 16-25 are amended and claims 26-32 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 2, 13, 14 and 16-25 can be found throughout the specification, for example, in paragraph [0106] of the originally filed specification. This paragraph also provides support for new claims 26-32. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Rush at the personal interview held August 25, 2010, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. By this Amendment, and as agreed during the personal interview, claims 22 and 23 have been amended to recite a non-transitory computer readable medium responsive to the rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 16, 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wood (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,263) in view of Morimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,899). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "identifying a more unclear region between the left and right target regions." In rejecting claim 1, the Office Action alleged that Morimura disclosed the previously-recited inconspicuous region. As discussed during the personal interview, it is the Examiner's position that an inconspicuous region can include an occluded region, which is allegedly disclosed in Morimura. As discussed during the personal interview, an occluded region can be very clear in one image but occluded in another image. For example, an image could include a region that is clear and visible to the left eye but is occluded in the image

provided to the right eye. Nothing in Morimura would have been interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art as disclosing, or having rendered obvious, the claimed unclear region because Morimura is only concerned with areas that are occluded, not unclear.

Claims 16, 18, 20 and 22 recite "identifying a more unclear region between the left and right target regions." Thus, claims 16, 18, 20 and 22 are patentable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wood in view of Blake et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0232510). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 2 recites "a region processing step of carrying out processing of generating a stereoscopic image set of images so as to make the regions extracted in the region extraction step even more unclear than the remaining regions of the regions." In rejecting claim 2, the Office Action alleges that Wood discloses the previously-recited features, including the previously-recited "inconspicuous" feature. Similar to the rejection of claim 1 as discussed above, the Office Action relies on an occluded pixel as allegedly disclosing the previously-recited features. As discussed during the personal interview, an occluded pixel would not have been interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art as being unclear. Thus, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, the applied references also fail to disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, the above-quoted features of claim 2.

Claim 13 recites "the stereoscopic image set of images being processed so as to make a more unclear region between left and right target regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane even more unclear than the remaining regions of the target regions." Claim 17 recites "a region processing means of carrying out processing of generating a stereoscopic

image set of images so as to make the regions extracted in the region extraction step even more unclear than the remaining regions of the regions." Claim 19 recites "a region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make the processed regions extracted in the region extraction step even more unclear than the remaining regions of the regions." Claim 21 recites "a region processing means of carrying out processing of generating a stereoscopic image set of images so as to make the regions extracted in the region extraction step even more unclear than the remaining regions of the regions." Claim 23 recites "a region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make the regions extracted in the region extraction step even more unclear than the remaining regions of the regions." Thus, claims 13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are patentable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 2.

Claims 5, 7, 9, 11 and 15 are patentable by reason of their dependency from independent claim 2, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wood in view of Morimura and Blake. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The rejection of these claims is premised upon the combination of Wood and Morimura disclosing, or having rendered obvious, all of the features of independent claim 1. As discussed above, Wood and Morimura fail to do so. Additionally, Blake fails to overcome the deficiencies of Wood and Morimura. Thus, claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 are patentable by reason of their dependency from independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wood in view of Morimura and Tabata (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,309). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 24 recites "a region extraction step of extracting left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image and identifying a more unclear region between the left and right target regions; a region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make the region identified in the region extraction step even more unclear than the remaining regions of the target regions." In rejecting claim 24, the Office Action relies on Wood and Morimura similar to the rejections of claims 1 and 2 as discussed above. Wood and Morimura are similarly deficient with respect to the above-quoted features of claim 24 as discussed in detail with respect to claims 1 and 2 above. Additionally, Tabata fails to overcome the deficiencies of Wood and Morimura. Thus, the combination of Wood, Morimura and Tabata fail to disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, all of the features of claim 24. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wood in view of Blake and Tabata. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

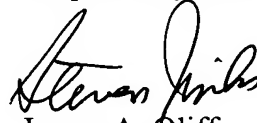
Claim 25 recites "a region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make the regions extracted in the region extraction step even more unclear than the remaining regions of the regions." In rejecting claim 25, the Office Action relies upon Wood as allegedly disclosing the previously-claimed "inconspicuous" feature. For the reasons discussed above with respect to the other independent claims, Wood fails to disclose these features. Additionally, neither Blake nor

Tabata overcome the deficiencies of Wood. Thus, claim 25 is patentable over these references. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Steven D. Jinks

Registration No. 62,760

JAO:SDJ/mkg

Attachment:

Amendment Transmittal

Date: September 10, 2010

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry of this filing;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461